The Indian diamond industry uses advanced technology to remain competitive.

Lichee export

†735. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Lichee exported from India and the extent of foreign exchange earned thereby;

(b) whether Lichee is also exported from Uttaranchal;

(c) if so, whether the State Government is being provided with the assistance to increase the production of exportable Lichee in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The quantity and value of Lichee exported from India during the year 2002-03 (April to December) has been 33.61 MTs and Rs. 97.51 lakhs respectively.

(Source : DGC & IS)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An Agri Export Zone for Lichees has been set up in Uttaranchal. Under this, various schemes of the Government are dovetailed in the area. A comprehensive package of services including training, dissemination of technical knowledge on adoption of pre and post harvest practices by farmers etc. are being provided. Further, entrepreneurs are being encouraged to set up integrated packhouses for procuring of Lichees. Transport assistance is also being provided for undertaking exports.

Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme

736. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme (DEPB);

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.